

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-01

DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /101 W

-----008616 240408Z /62

R 231908Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

ALL EC CAPITALSINFO RHEGWDC/DOE WASHDC

DOE GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O R R E C T E D COPY ALL EC CAPITALS ADDED AS ADDRESSEES

USEEC

VIENNA ALSO FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA, EC

SUBJECT: EURATOM-IAEA VERIFICATION AGREEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 18954

MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPY OF TELEX FROM WILLIAMS TO FISCHER
(REFTEL), SENT ON DECEMBER 21. BEGIN TEXT:

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION SERVICES AND
IN CONSULTATION WITH OUR MEMBER STATES, I AM NOW IN A
POSITION TO GIVE YOU OUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS PUT
FORWARD IN YOUR LETTER OF 15 NOVEMBER 1977 CONCERNING THE
SAFEGUARDS APPROACH TO HIGH WATER REACTORS AND THE
AGENCY'S ROUTINE INSPECTION EFFORT IN THIS CONNECTION.

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(2) I SHOULD FIRST EXPLAIN THAT, WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO
ACCEPT ALL THE PROPOSALS IN YOUR LETTER, WE FULLY SUPPORT
THE BASIC AIM - TO ACHIEVE A DETECTION TIME OF THREE
MONTHS OF THE REMOVAL OF A SPENT FUEL ASSEMBLY OR OF THE
OPENING OF THE REACTOR, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT (PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 11 OF THE PROTOCOL) THE INSPECTION EFFORT CARRIED

OUT BY EURATOM.

(3) OUR COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE PROPOSALS AS THEY STAND IN THE LETTER OF 15 NOVEMBER WOULD IN OUR VIEW BE OUTSIDE THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT AND THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION WORKED OUT IN JULY, WHICH WERE APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY. OUR PROPOSALS AT (B), (C) AND (D) BELOW WILL, WE BELIEVE, ENABLE THE AGENCY TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE TERMS AND SPIRIT OF THE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT.

B. WE ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR A "MID-TERM" AGENCY INSPECTION AS FORESEEN IN POINT 2 OF YOUR LETTER IN ADDITION TO THE COMPLETE INSPECTION IN POINT 1. HOWEVER, SINCE THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF DOUBTS WHETHER THE VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEM WILL WORK RELIABLY FOR A WHOLE YEAR, THE MID-TERM AGENCY INSPECTION SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED WHEN THESE DOUBTS ARE REASONABLY REMOVED.

C. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGENCY/EURATOM COMPROMISE AGREEMENT OF JULY 77 IS THAT THE "SLAVE" VIDEO CASSETTE WILL BE REMOVED DURING 3-MONTHLY VISITS BY EURATOM INSPECTION ALONE. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT A TAMPER-RESISTANT SLAVE CASSETTE SHOULD BE INSTALLED AS SOON AS SUCH A CASSETTE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE. UNTIL THEN WE ALSO AGREE THAT AGENCY INSPECTORS MAY ACCOMPANY EURATOM INSPECTORS DURING THEIR 3-MONTHLY VISITS ON AN OCCASIONAL AND LIMITED BASIS. THESE VISITS WOULD NOT BE USED TO UPSET THE BALANCE OF THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT AND SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED AS SOON AS A TAMPER-PROOF CASSETTE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED.

D. BASICALLY, THE 6-MONTHLY AND OCCASIONAL 3-MONTHLY VISITS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS TEMPORARY AND PROVISIONAL MEASURES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PURELY TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS OF EQUIPMENT RELIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY AND ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN AS ESTABLISHING ANY PERMANENT RIGHT OF THE AGENCY TO PERFORM SUCH CONTROL OPERATIONS.

E. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WITH SUCH IMPLEMENTING RULES, THE AGENCY, TAKING DUE ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMUNITY'S MULTINATIONAL SYSTEM OF SAFEGUARDS, WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A DETECTION TIME OF THREE MONTHS. FURTHER REDUCTIONS OF SUCH DETECTION TIME SHOULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE SUBJECT TO FULL EXAMINATION AND APPROVAL BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS.

(4) IN CONCLUSION, WE HOPE THAT THE COUNTER PROPOSALS INDICATED ABOVE CAN BE ACCEPTED BY THE AGENCY AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTIONS IN CONFORMITY WITH IAEA/EURATOM AGREEMENT. WE ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO PRESERVING THE BALANCE AND DEFINITION OF RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH WERE AN ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND WHICH WERE A RECOGNITION OF THE INTEREST OF THE AGENCY AND EURATOM TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN ACHIEVING MUTUAL GOALS.

(5) IT HAS BEEN OUR JOINT AIM TO DRAW UP FACILITY ATTACHMENTS FOR LIGHT WATER REACTORS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TIME. THE FACT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO WORK WITHIN THE JULY ARRANGEMENTS HAS INVOLVED A DELAY FOR WHICH EURATOM CANNOT ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY. I SHOULD APPRECIATE VERY EARLY CONFIRMATION THAT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS CAN CONTINUE ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS IN THIS LETTER.
L. WILLIAMS. END TEXT. HINTON

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